

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 17, 29 and 32 as shown below in clean form. A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached.

17. (Twice Amended) A transport device for housing a long length nuclear fuel assembly, said device comprising:

C3
a compartment having substantially the same length as the fuel assembly, said compartment having fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space of the compartment, and an opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal direction;

a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment, and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

an adjustable clamping device comprising:

at ^{N.M.} least one pneumatic cavity configured to provide a force on the mobile structure in said transverse direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

a gas inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in the longitudinal direction and configured to provide ^{N.A.} air to said pneumatic cavity to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed position within the compartment.

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Cont.
29. (Amended) Device according to claim 17, wherein the combined guide elements and the adjustable clamping device comprise:

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Cont.
a cylindrical jack body with a transverse axis, rigidly attached to the fixed structure comprising a guide rod in which a compressed ^{~A}air inlet duct has been formed along its axis projecting from its free end, a plurality of cylindrical chambers at its periphery with an axis parallel to the jack axis, each of the chambers containing a compression spring, the springs clamping the mobile structure into the fuel assembly,

a fixed piston rigidly attached to the said free end of the guide rod comprising a seal at its periphery,

a mobile collar rigidly attached to the mobile structure located inside the jack body and adjusted to the shape of said jack body, this collar being inserted between the fixed piston and the jack body and sliding along the guide rod along a corresponding bore formed in said collar, said collar also comprising at its periphery a plurality of housings that nest in an adjusted manner into each of the chambers by moving transversely to the longitudinal direction of the fuel assembly,

^{~B}
^{~A}
wherein said air inlet control device comprises a compressed gas supply means opening at the accessible end of the compartment and carrying gas into a pneumatic cavity located between the fixed piston and the mobile collar through the duct.

32. (Twice Amended) Container for the transport of nuclear fuel assemblies, comprising:

CS
Cont.
a plurality of transport devices each housing a long length nuclear fuel assembly, each transport device comprising:

a compartment having substantially the same length as the fuel assembly, said compartment having fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space of the compartment, and an opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal direction;

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Correct.

a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment, and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

an adjustable clamping device comprising:

N.M.
at least one pneumatic cavity configured to move the mobile structure in said transverse direction thereby clamping and unclamping the mobile structure on the fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

an air inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in the longitudinal direction and configured to provide air to said pneumatic cavity to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed position within the compartment.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-30 and 32 are presently active in this case, Claims 17, 29 and 32 amended by the present amendment and Claims 1-16 and 31 previously withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to as not showing every feature of Claim 32; Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; Claims 17-21 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,165,255 to Knight and the Examiner noted that Claims 17-21 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by any one of U.S. Patent No.